

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding grounds of rejection is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the remarks that follow.

The Examiner has rejected claims 14, 15, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by DeLuccia (US 4,675,005), and claim 16 as obvious over DeLuccia. In comparing the syringe disclosed in DeLuccia with the syringe defined by claims 14, 15, 17 and 18, the Examiner regards the one or more “leaf-like portions 56”) as the claimed hook/tines.

It is noted, however, that in order for the leaf-like portions 56 to engage leaf-like portions 50 relative rotation is required between the withdrawal tool 46 and the hub coupling 44. In this regard, claim 14 has been amended to require that the hook be engageable with the cup to secure the plunger to the needle and the cup solely in response to axially movement of the plunger towards the distal end of the barrel.

The Examiner’s attention is also directed to the embodiment illustrated in Figures 7 and 8 of DeLuccia where the engagement between the withdrawal tool and the needle hub is of a snap-fit type, where an annular rib on the withdrawal tool is adapted be received within a groove within the interior of the needle hub. In this regard, claim 14 has further been amended to require that the hook comprise at least two angled tines (as a result of the addition of the latter limitation, claim 15 has been canceled and claim 16 has been amended for the sake of consistency).

It is therefore apparent that DeLuccia neither discloses nor suggests the arrangement required by independent claim 14 as amended herewith. Accordingly, claim 14 as well as claims 16-18 which depend therefrom are now in condition for immediate allowance and early passage to issue is requested. Since the amendment places the application in condition for allowance or,

at the very least, puts the case in better condition for appeal, entry of the Amendment under Rule 116(b) is warranted.

In the event, however, any small matters remain outstanding, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned so that the prosecution of this application can be expeditiously concluded.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Account No. 14-1140.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____



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